

CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A scalable computer system for distributed collaborative computing, the system comprising:

5 a plurality of server computers connected to a plurality of client computers via a global-area computer network;

a high-speed direct connection link connecting the plurality of server computers; and

10 a computer program executable by the server computers, wherein the computer program comprises computer instructions for:

receiving a request to join an on-line conference from a client computer;

15 selecting one of the server computers based on processing loads of the server computers;

establishing a connection between the client computer and the server computer over the global-area network; and

20 establishing a communication link between the selected server computer and one of the other server computers over a high-speed direct connection link.

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2. The computer system of claim 1, wherein the computer program further comprises computer instructions for:

30 sharing an application program executed on one of the client computers on an arbitrary number of other client computers.

3. The computer system of claim 1, wherein the computer program further comprises computer instructions for:

viewing a document stored on one of the
5 client computers on an arbitrary number of other client computers.

4. The computer system of claim 1, wherein the computer program further comprises computer
10 instructions for:

detecting a failure of one of the server computers handling the on-line conference;
disconnecting the failed server computer from the on-line conference;
15 connecting another of the server computers to the conference; and
resuming the on-line conference.

5. The computer system of claim 1, further
20 comprising a database, wherein the computer program further comprises computer instructions for:

storing information about the status of the on-line conference in the database.

25 6. The computer system of claim 1, wherein the computer program further comprises computer instructions for:

ensuring that a maximum number of authorized conference participants in not exceeded.

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7. A method of operating a distributed collaborative computing system comprising a plurality of server computers, the method comprising:

5 receiving a request to join an on-line conference from a client computer;
selecting one of the server computers based on processing loads of the server computers;
establishing a connection between the client computer and the server computer over the global-
10 area network; and
establishing a communication link between the selected server computer and one of the other server computers over a high-speed direct connection link.

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8. The method claim 7, further comprising:
sharing an application program executed on one of the client computers on an arbitrary number of other client computers.

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9. The method of claim 7, further comprising:
viewing a document stored on one of the client computers on an arbitrary number of other client computers.

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10. The method of claim 7, further comprising:
detecting a failure of one of the server computers handling the on-line conference;
disconnecting the failed server computer from
30 the on-line conference;
connecting another of the server computers to the conference; and

resuming the on-line conference.

11. The method of claim 7, wherein the distributed collaborative computing system further
5 comprises a database and the method further comprises:
storing information about the status of the on-line conference in the database.

12. The method of claim 7, further comprising:
10 ensuring that a maximum number of authorized conference participants in not exceeded.

13. A computer-readable storage medium storing a computer program executable by a plurality of server
15 computers, the computer program comprising computer instructions for:
receiving a request to join an on-line conference from a client computer;
selecting one of the server computers based
20 on processing loads of the server computers;
establishing a connection between the client computer and the server computer over the global-area network; and
establishing a communication link between the
25 selected server computer and one of the other server computers over a high-speed direct connection link.

14. The computer-readable storage medium of claim
30 13, wherein the computer program further comprises computer instructions for:

sharing an application program executed on one of the client computers on an arbitrary number of other client computers.

5 15. The computer-readable storage medium of claim 13, wherein the computer program further comprises computer instructions for:

 viewing a document stored on one of the client computers on an arbitrary number of other
10 client computers.

 16. The computer-readable storage medium of claim 13, wherein the computer program further comprises computer instructions for:

15 detecting a failure of one of the server computers handling the on-line conference;
 disconnecting the failed server computer from the on-line conference;
 connecting another of the server computers to
20 the conference; and
 resuming the on-line conference.

 17. The computer-readable storage medium of claim 13, further comprising a database, wherein the computer
25 program further comprises computer instructions for:
 storing information about the status of the on-line conference in the database.

 18. The computer-readable storage medium of claim
30 13, wherein the computer program further comprises computer instructions for:

There is a growing concern among the public that the government is not doing enough to protect the environment. This is especially true when it comes to the issue of climate change. The government has been accused of being too slow to act on this issue, and many people are calling for more aggressive action. The government has responded by saying that it is doing everything it can to address the issue, but many people are not convinced. They believe that the government is not doing enough to protect the environment, and they are calling for more action. This is a complex issue, and it is one that the government needs to address as soon as possible. The public has a right to know what the government is doing to protect the environment, and they have a right to demand more action. The government needs to be more transparent about its actions, and it needs to be more aggressive in its efforts to protect the environment. This is not just an issue for the government, it is an issue for all of us. We all have a role to play in protecting the environment, and we all need to be more aware of the issues that we face. The government has a responsibility to protect the environment, and it needs to be held accountable for its actions. The public has a right to demand more action, and the government needs to respond to that demand. This is a challenge, but it is one that we need to face if we want to protect the environment for future generations.